

REMARKS

Specification Amendment

The specification has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error.

Status of the Claims

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 31-52 and 64-66 will remain pending in the above-identified application. Withdrawn claims 56-63 are cancelled. Claim 31 has been amended based on the disclosures at page 10, lines 22 to 23 and page 11, lines 24-26 of the specification.

New claims 64-66, which find support on page 11 and in the Examples, have been added. Especially, new claim 64 is added based on Examples 1-5. New claim 65 is added based on Examples 3 and 5.

The present amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter into the application as originally filed.

As such entry of the instant amendment and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Incorporation of Earlier Remarks

The remarks set forth in the prior responses of March 1, 2010 and December 8, 2010 are incorporated herein by reference, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the same at present as they are believed to remain pertinent to the outstanding rejections, vis-à-vis, the pending claims.

Additionally, in this Supplemental Amendment, claim 31 has been amended to further clarify that the solvent is ketone, and the non-solvent is at least one non-solvent selected from the group consisting of water, C₁-C₆ alkanol and C₁-C₆ alkane.

In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks set forth in the previous response and this Supplemental Amendment, the present invention has been further clarified, while overcoming the claim objection and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph set forth in the Office Action of June 8, 2010.

Further, in view of the amendments to claim 31 in this Supplemental Amendment, the present invention is further defined over the primary cited references (*i.e.*, Bengs et al. US '459 (US 6,562,459) in view of the secondary references, overcoming the obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) set forth in the Office Action of June 8, 2010. It is noted that as disclosed at page 10, 28-31 of the specification, in the present invention, excess solvent should be avoided since it is good enough to use a minimum amount of solution to ensure a complete dissolution of the starting material so as to prepare a solution of a starch derivative. In other words, the starch derivative should not be excessively dissolved in solvent, as disclosed in Bengs et al. US '459, where dimethylsulphoxide (DMSO) is employed. In the present invention, it is important that the starch derivative should be only just about fully dissolved so that it can then be readily precipitated again. According to the present invention, starch pigments having excellent optical properties can be effectively obtained (see *e.g.*, the disclosures at page 4, lines 4 to 16 and pages 14, line 27 to page 15, line 2 of the present specification). None of the cited references discloses or suggests such a feature of the present invention.

Therefore, there is no rationale and/or reasonable expectation of success based on the combination of the cited references, by which one skilled in the art could arrive at the present

invention as claimed. Thus, it is submitted that the present invention is not obvious over the combination of the cited references.

Based on the foregoing considerations, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objections and the rejections.

Conclusion

Based upon the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance clearly indicating that each of the pending claims is allowed.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Toyohiko Konno, Reg. No. L0053 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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